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PAGE 01 STATE 146647

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ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66615

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE/RBHOUSTON/MJ

APPROVED BY EUR/EE-RBHOUSTON

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R 082147Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 146647

FOL REPEAT BELGRADE 3261 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

INFOZAGREB JUL 05

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 3261

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: YO BU PFOR

SUBJ: MORE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN POLEMICS OVER MACEDONIA

1. THE UN SEMINAR ON MINORITIES AT OHRID HAS PROVED TO BE TOO TEMPTING A FORUM TO RESIST FOR MORE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN POLEMICS OVER MACEDONIA. JULY 4 TANJUG AND JULY 5 POLITIKA EXTENSIVELY QUOTE ASST FSFA SECRETARY MILJAN KOMATINA'S REPOSE TO BULGARIAN DELEGATE YULIYA BAHNEV'S CONTENTION AT THE JULY 3 SESSION THAT THERE IS NO MACEDONIAN MINORITY IN BULGARIA. (FSFA SPECIAL ADVISOR SILVO DEVETAK HAD EARLIER THAT DAY SAID THERE WAS.) THIS WAS A "GROSS INTERVENTION" WHICH WAS "ENTIRELY UNPROVOKED AND IT MAY HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN RELATIONS", PER KOMATINA. HE ADDED THAT EFFORTS TO DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE MACEDONIAN NATION "TIE IN WITH FOREIGN INTRIGUES ON THE BALKAN PENINSULA", WHICH MIGHT BE READ AS AIMED AT MOSCOW.

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2. BOHNEV THEN RESPONDED TO THE ABOVE REMARKS AND "REGRETTED" THAT KOMATINA HAD CHOSEN TO RESUME THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MACEDONIAN MINORITY IN BULGARIA AT THE SEMINAR. HE INSISTED THAT BULGARIA DESIRES ALL-EMBRACING COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA GENERALLY AND THE SFR MACEDONIA PARTICULARLY- HE DID NOT, OF COURSE, RETRACT HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS.

3. NOT COINCIDENTALLY, MACEDONIA REPUBLIC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT BIAGOJ POPOV AT VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS ON JULY 4 AT PROBISTIP WENT AT GREAT LENGTH INTO THE FIGHTING IN SPRING 1944 AGAINST THE "BULGARIAN FASCIST ELITE DIVISIONS". HE DECRIED THE HISTORICAL DISTORTIONS OF THE ROLE OF THE BULGARIAN FATHERLAND FRONT UNITS AND ASSERTED THAT UNITS OF THE BULGARIAN FIFTH ARMY (FASCIST) CONTINUED FIGHTING AGAINST THE YUGOSLAVS AFTER THE BULGARIAN CAPITULATION INSTEAD OF JOINING THE COMMON BATTLE AGAINST THE GERMANS. DESPITE "NATIONALIST PRETENSIONS AGAINST THE MACEDONIAN NATION ON THE PART OF CERTAIN REACTIONARY, OUTDATED FORCES IN CERTAIN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES". POPOV CONCLUDED WITH STANDARD CALL FOR STABLE, GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT. THE HARDY MACEDONIAN PERENNIAL OBVIOUSLY CONTINUES TO THRIVE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST BOTH SIDES WILL SEE THAT IT DOES NOT OVER-BLOOM INTO A MAJOR CONFRONTATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINORITIES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE146647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EE/RBHOUSTON/MJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740181-0884
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740767/aaaacfpj.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN POLEMICS OVER MACEDONIA
TAGS: PFOR, YO, BU, UN
To: SOFIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005